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## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Stephen R. Lawrence, Niniane Wang and David Marmaros

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EXAMINER: Robert M. Timblin

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MAIL STOP AMENDMENT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. BOX 1450 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

## **AMENDMENT A AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111**

Sir:

This amendment for the patent application identified above is in response to the Non-Final Office Action dated September 20, 2006, which set a shortened statutory period for response that expires on December 20, 2006. Applicants request, and submit fee for, a 1-month extension of time.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 8 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 15 of this paper.

Kindly amend this application as indicated herein.